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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for managing access to data in a keystore, the method comprising:
- receiving a request for access to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key;
- 10 determining whether the requestor is a trusted requestor;
- responsive to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, decrypting the item of data using the key to form a decrypted item of data; and
- 15 sending the decrypted item of data to the requestor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the requestor is an application.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the Keystore is a Java Keystore.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the item of data is another key.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the item of data is a certificate.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the item of data is
- 30 indexed within the Keystore using an alias.

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7. The method claim 6, wherein the request includes the alias further comprising:

responsive to an absence of a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, returning a null result  
5 to the requestor.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to receiving a request to add a new item  
of data to the Keystore, encrypting the new item of data  
10 to form an encrypted item of data; and  
storing the encrypted item of data in the Keystore.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

storing the new item of data in the Keystore.  
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10. The method of claim 8, wherein each item of data in the Keystore is associated with an alias.

11. A method in a data processing system for managing  
20 access to data in a keystore, the method comprising:

receiving a request for access to an item of data  
from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted  
using a key;

determining whether the requestor is a trusted  
25 requestor; and

responsive to a determination that the requestor is  
a trusted requestor, sending the key and the item of data  
to the requestor.

30 12. A Keystore system comprising:

a Keystore object including:

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a key; and

a plurality of entries, wherein each entry within the plurality of entries is encrypted using the key; and

- 5 a Keystore process, wherein the Keystore process provides access to the plurality of entries in response to a request from a trusted application by providing the key to the trusted application.

- 10 13. The Keystore system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of entries is indexed using a plurality of aliases and wherein the request includes an alias for a requested entry.

- 15 14. The Keystore system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of entries is a first plurality of entries and wherein the Keystore object includes a second plurality of entries corresponding to the first plurality of entries in an unencrypted form.

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15. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus, wherein data is sent and received using the communications unit;

- 25 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein a set of instructions are located in the memory; and

- a processor unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processor unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request for access to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key, determine whether the requestor is
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a trusted requestor, and send the key and the item of data to the requestor, in response to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor.

5 16. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

17. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the processor unit includes a single processor.

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18. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the processor unit includes a plurality of processors.

15 19. The data processing system claim 15, wherein the communications unit is an Ethernet adapter.

20 20. A data processing system for managing access to data in a datastore, the data processing system comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a request for access  
to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key;

determining means for determining whether the requestor is a trusted requestor; and

25 decrypting means, responsive to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, for decrypting the item of data using the key to form a decrypted item of data; and

sending means for sending the decrypted item of data to the requestor.

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21. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the

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requestor is an application.

22. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the Keystore is a Java Keystore.

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23. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the item of data is another key.

24. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the  
10 item of data is a certificate.

25. The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the item of data is indexed within the Keystore using an alias.

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26. The data processing system claim 25, wherein the request includes the alias further comprising:

returning means, responsive to an absence of a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor,  
20 for returning a null result to the requestor.

27. The data processing system of claim 20 further comprising:

encrypting means, responsive to receiving a request  
25 to add a new item of data to the Keystore, for encrypting the new item of data to form an encrypted item of data;  
and

storing means for storing the encrypted item of data in the Keystore.

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28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the

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storing means is a first storing means further comprising:

second storing means for storing the new item of data in the Keystore.

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29. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein each item of data in the Keystore is associated with an alias.

10 30. A data processing system for managing access to data in a datastore, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for access to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key;

15 determining means for determining whether the requestor is a trusted requestor; and

sending means, responsive to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, for sending the key and the item of data to the requestor.

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31. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing access to data in a datastore, the computer program product comprising:

25 first instructions for receiving a request for access to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key;

second instructions for determining whether the requestor is a trusted requestor; and

30 third instructions, responsive to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, for sending the key and the item of data to the requestor.

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32. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing access to data in a datastore, the computer program product comprising:

- 5 first instructions for receiving a request for access to an item of data from a requestor, wherein the item of data is encrypted using a key;
- second instructions for determining whether the requestor is a trusted requestor;
- 10 third instruction, responsive to a determination that the requestor is a trusted requestor, for decrypting the item of data using the key to form a decrypted item of data; and
- fourth instructions for sending the decrypted item
- 15 of data to the requestor.